



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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SECRETARY

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DEQ announces Caddo Lake Protection Initiative

BATON ROUGE – In conjunction with the grand opening celebration for the Caddo Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Harold Leggett announced that his agency has begun an initiative to protect the Caddo Lake watershed.

Caddo Lake is located along the Texas-Louisiana border just north of Shreveport, with half of the lake in Louisiana and half in Texas. It is the largest natural freshwater lake in the South. Its unique environment holds the distinction as being one of the best examples of a mature bald cypress forest in the southern United States. This area is known for its picturesque beauty and outstanding diversity of wildlife. The purpose of DEQ's Caddo Lake Protection Initiative is to help protect and preserve the significance of Caddo Lake, its associated wetlands and the surrounding environment.

To help advance this initiative, DEQ is working with non-governmental organizations interested in protecting Caddo Lake, as well as officials with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. DEQ has bolstered its attempts to curb illegal dumping and other illegal environmental activities throughout the state. The department will use its civil and criminal resources from its Northwest Regional Office to respond to complaints from citizens or agencies regarding possible discharges or dumping of pollutants in and around Caddo Lake.

"Environmental protection is about preserving our natural resources for the enjoyment of our citizens," Leggett said. "It is our duty to preserve this internationally acclaimed wetland habitat for future generations to enjoy and appreciate."

Information concerning these activities should be directed to DEQ's Single Point of Contact hotline at 1-888-763-5424, or CID agent Don Cowart at 318-676-7476.

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